

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A gaming apparatus comprising:

a variable display unit configured to variably display a plurality of symbols;

a front side display unit located in front of the variable display unit, configured to display a prescribed image and to enable viewing of the symbols displayed by the variable display unit;

a concealing unit having an opening area, located between the variable display unit and the front side display unit and configured to temporarily conceal at least one of the plurality of symbols displayed by the variable display unit and/or a rear side of the front side display unit during a progression of a game;

a stopping symbol ~~signal~~ determiner configured to determine a stopping symbol ~~signal~~ internally; and

a stopping controller configured to stop the varying of display of the variable display unit based on a result of determination by the stopping symbol ~~signal~~ determiner;

wherein a prize is awarded if a stopped state displayed on the variable display unit, which is caused by the stopping controller, matches a prescribed stopped state.

Claim 2 (Original): A gaming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the concealing unit comprises a shutter which can conceal an arbitrary position.

Claim 3 (Original): A gaming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the concealing unit comprises a shutter which can conceal a prescribed position.

Claim 4 (Original): A gaming apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the shutter comprises a non-transparent sheet which is slidable.

Claim 5 (Original): A gaming apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the shutter comprises a panel configured by a liquid crystal display or a transparent electronic luminescent display.

Claim 6 (Original): A gaming apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the shutter comprises a non-transparent sheet which is slidable.

Claim 7 (Original): A gaming apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the shutter comprises a panel configured by a liquid crystal display or a transparent electronic luminescent display.

Claim 8 (Original): A gaming apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a plurality of stoppers configured to stop the varying of display of the variable display unit.

Claims 9-10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A gaming apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the non-transparent sheet is adapted to roll upward and downward over a certain area corresponding to the front side display unit.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A gaming apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein the non-transparent sheet is adapted to roll upward and downward over a certain area corresponding to the front side display unit.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): A gaming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the concealing unit is adapted to conceal the symbols displayed by the variable display unit at a rear of the prescribed image.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A gaming apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the prescribed image notifies that the stopping symbol is awarded.